

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A digital content reproducing system comprising:

a content server which stores and manages a digital content of movies; and

a projecting system which is connected to the content server via a network, receives the digital content from the content server via the network, and reproduces the digital content to show a movie, wherein the projecting system comprises:

a reproducing device; and

a backup reproducing device that decodes signals while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The digital content reproducing system of claim 1, wherein the projecting system further comprises:

a mass memory unit which stores the digital content supplied via the network; and

~~a reproducing device which produces signals to reproduce the digital content;~~

~~a backup reproducing device which reproduces the digital content when the reproducing device can not serve to reproduce the digital content; and~~

an AV input switching device which receives output signals from the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device and selects output signals from an active one of the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device to produce the selected output signals.

Claim 3. (Original) The digital content reproducing system of claim 2, wherein the output signals supplied from the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device are each separated into video signals and audio signals, and wherein the projecting system further

comprises:

a projecting device which receives the video signals from the AV switching device and projects them on a screen; and

an audio processor which receives the audio signals from the AV switching device and outputs them to a loudspeaker.

Claim 4. (Original) The digital content reproducing system of claim 3, wherein the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device comprise the same elements and each of the devices comprises:

an encrypting module which is connected to the mass memory unit and encrypts the digital content received from the mass memory unit;

an AV separating module which receives the digital content from the encrypting module and separates them into the video signals and the audio signals;

a video decoder which receives the video signals from the AV separating module and decodes them;

a video signal output device which receives the decoded video signals from the video decoder and outputs them to the AV input switching device;

an audio decoder which receives the audio signals from the AV separating module and decodes them; and

an audio signal output device which receives the decoded audio signals from the audio decoder and outputs them to the AV input switching device.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The digital content reproducing system of claim 4,

wherein the backup reproducing device decodes the signals at the video decoder and the audio decoder while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device, and wherein the backup reproducing device starts a sending process of the decoded signals to the AV input switching device in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The digital content reproducing system of claim 5, wherein the backup reproducing device sends a second predetermined signal to; instruct the reproducing device to stop, after the backup reproducing device starts the sending process.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The digital content reproducing system of claim 3, wherein the digital content is individually supplied in the form of video data and audio data, and wherein the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device comprise the same elements and each of the devices comprises a video data processing section and an audio processing section,

the video data processing section comprising:

a first decrypting ~~encrypting~~ module which is connected to the mass memory unit and decrypts ~~encrypts~~ the video data received from the mass memory unit;

a video decoder which receives the video signals from the first decrypting ~~encrypting~~ module and decodes them; and

a video signal output device which receives the decoded video signals from the video decoder and outputs them to the AV input switching device,

the audio data processing section comprising:

a second decrypting ~~encrypting~~ module which is connected to the mass memory unit and decrypts ~~encrypts~~ the audio data received from the mass memory unit;

an audio decoder which receives the audio signals from the second decrypting ~~encrypting~~ module and decodes them; and

an audio signal output device which receives the decoded audio signals from the audio decoder and outputs them to the AV input switching device.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The digital content reproducing system of claim 7, wherein the video signal output device supplies the decoded video signals to the projecting device other than ~~not~~ through the AV input switching device and/or the audio signal output device supplies the decoded audio signals to the audio processor other than ~~not~~ through the AV input switching device.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The digital content reproducing system of claim 7, wherein the backup reproducing device decodes the signals at the video decoder and the audio decoder while the reproducing device periodically sends said a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device, and wherein the backup reproducing device starts a sending process of the decoded signals to the AV input switching device in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The digital content reproducing system of claim 9, wherein the backup reproducing device sends a second predetermined signal, to instruct the

reproducing device to stop, after the backup reproducing device starts the sending process.

Claim 11. (Original) The digital content reproducing system of claim 1, wherein the content server, the projecting system, and the network are located in an institution to show movies.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A digital content reproducing system comprising:

a content server which stores and manages a digital content of movies; and

a projecting system which is connected to the content server via a network, wherein the projecting system receives the digital content from the content server via the network and reproduces the digital content to show a movie, the projecting system comprises:

a reproducing device which supplies signals to reproduce the digital content;

and

a backup reproducing device which supplies signals to reproduce the digital content when the reproducing device can not serve to reproduce the digital content,

and

wherein the backup reproducing device performs a decoding process of the digital content while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device, and the backup reproducing device starts processing the decoded digital content and supplying the signals to reproduce the movie in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

Claim 13. (Canceled).

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A method of reproducing a digital content at either one of a reproducing device and a backup reproducing device, comprising;

at the reproducing device;~~the steps of~~

receiving a digital content of a movie;

decoding the digital content;

processing the decoded digital content; ~~and~~

supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and

periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal to a backup reproducing device;

at the backup reproducing device;~~the steps of~~

receiving a digital content of a movie;

decoding the digital content while receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;

receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device; ~~and~~

processing the decoded digital content; and

supplying signals to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer ~~computers~~ to perform a method of reproducing a digital content comprising ~~the steps of~~:

at a reproducing device;

receiving a digital content of a movie;

decoding the digital content;
processing the decoded digital content; ~~and~~
supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and
periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal to a backup
reproducing device;
at the backup reproducing device;;
receiving a digital content of a movie;
decoding the digital content while receiving the predetermined signal from the
reproducing device;
receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device; ~~and~~
processing the decoded digital content; ~~and~~
supplying signals to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is
not sent from the reproducing device.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and
representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the
processor to perform a method of reproducing a digital content comprising: ~~the steps of,~~
at a reproducing device;;

receiving a digital content of a movie;
decoding the digital content;
processing the decoded digital content; ~~and~~
supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and
periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal to a backup

reproducing device;
at the backup reproducing device;
receiving a digital content of a movie;
decoding the digital content while receiving the predetermined signal from the
reproducing device;
receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device; ~~and~~
processing the decoded digital content; and
supplying signals to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is
not sent from the reproducing device.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A program product comprising, computer readable instructions and a recording medium bearing the computer readable instructions, the instructions being adaptable to enable computers to perform a method of reproducing a digital content comprising ~~the steps of:~~

at a reproducing device;
receiving a digital content of a movie;
decoding the digital content;
processing the decoded digital content; ~~and~~
supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and
periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal to a backup
reproducing device;
at the backup reproducing device;
receiving a digital content of a movie;

decoding the digital content while receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;

receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device; and

processing the decoded digital content; and

supplying signals to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device.

Claim 18. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the backup reproducing device sends the decoded signals to the projecting system if the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

Claim 19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the backup reproducing device sends a second predetermined signal to the reproducing device in response to the reproducing device stopping the sending of the first predetermined signal.

Claim 20. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the reproducing device stops sending decoded signals in response to receiving the second predetermined signal.

Claim 21. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the backup reproducing device decrypts signals while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device.

Claim 22. (New) A digital content projecting system comprising:

a reproducing device reproducing a digital content of movies, said digital content received from a content server storing said digital content; and

a backup reproducing device that decodes said digital content while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device.

Claim 23. (New) The digital content projecting system of claim 22, wherein said backup reproducing device starts outputting said digital content in response to a stop of said first predetermined signal.

Claim 24. (New) A backup reproducing device for use in backing up a reproducing device, said backup reproducing device and said reproducing device receiving, via a network, digital content of movies from a content server for storing said digital content, said backup reproducing device comprising:

means for detecting whether a first predetermined signal sent from said reproducing device is periodically received;

means for decoding said digital content while receiving said first predetermined signal from said reproducing device; and

means for starting outputting, in response to a detection of an absence of said first predetermined signal, said digital content to be supplied with the last received one of the first predetermined signal.